

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1 1. A method for a server that manages bandwidth of a remote link, comprising:  
2 assigning a portion of the bandwidth to at least one application group; and  
3 metering packets belonging to the application group.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the server is a VPN server.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the server is directly connected to other links having  
2 larger bandwidth than the available bandwidth of the remote link.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the packets belonging to the application group share a  
2 pre-defined configuration.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the packets belonging to the application group  
2 contend equally for the portion of the bandwidth.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein metering the packets group further includes metering  
2 flow rate of the packets going through the server in either direction.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein metering the packets further includes rejecting the  
2 packets if the flow rate exceeds the portion of the assigned bandwidth.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising allowing a user to specify the bandwidth of  
2 the remote link from a user interface.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising allowing a user to specify the portion of  
2 the assigned bandwidth from a user interface.

1 10. A system for managing bandwidth of a remote link comprising:  
2 a server  
3 a contention pool having a portion of the bandwidth for at least one application group;  
4 and

5 a meter for metering the packets belonging to the application group.

1 11. The system of claim 10 wherein the server is a VPN server.

1 12. The system of claim 10 wherein the server is directly connected to other links having  
2 larger bandwidth than the available bandwidth of the remote link.

1 13. The system of claim 10 wherein the packets belonging to the application group share  
2 a pre-defined configuration.

1 14. The system of claim 10 wherein the packets belonging to the application group  
2 contend equally for the contention pool.

1 15. The system of claim 10 wherein the meter further meters flow rate of the packets  
2 going through the server in either direction.

1 16. The system of claim 15 wherein the meter further rejects the packets if the flow rate  
2 exceeds the assigned portion of the bandwidth.

1 17. The system of claim 10 further comprising a user interface that allows a user to  
2 specify the bandwidth of the link.

1 18. The system of claim 10 further comprising a user interface that allows a user to  
2 specify the assigned portion of the bandwidth.